

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image quality selecting method, comprising:
displaying selectable candidates for a number of imaging pixels and image compression rates in compression operation in a two-dimensional arrangement on a setting screen for setting an image quality;
presenting to a user combinations of selectable number of imaging pixels and the image compression rates and at the same time receiving an instruction for moving a cursor on the setting screen, wherein the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rates are each directly selectable; and
changing a setting to the number of pixels and the image compression rate which are pointed by the cursor after designating a position of the cursor;
wherein the number of candidates for the number of imaging pixels will depend upon the image compression rate selected.

2. (Original) The image quality selecting method as defined in claim 1, wherein number of photographable images is displayed in accordance with the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate which are selected with said cursor.

3. (Original) The image quality selecting method as defined in claim 1, wherein a remaining time for recording a moving image is displayed on said setting screen in accordance with the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate which are selected with said cursor.

4. (Original) The image quality selecting method as defined in claim 1, wherein:
information on a combination of the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate which have been set in a previous setting is stored; and
when one of the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate is changed by an operation of the user, the cursor automatically moves to a position of the other of the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate in the previous setting according to the stored information.

5. (Original) The image quality selecting method as defined in claim 1, wherein when one of the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate is changed by an operation of the user, the cursor automatically moves to a position of the other of the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate in a predetermined default.

6. (Currently Amended) A digital camera, comprising:
a taking lens;
an imaging device that converts light which enters through said taking lens into electric signals;

a signal processing part for processing the signals outputted from said imaging device;

a recording instruction input operation part that instructs start of recording in order to obtain an image;

a recording device that records an image in a storage medium, the image being photographed in response to an operation of said recording instruction input operation part;

a display device that displays a setting screen for setting an image quality;

a display control device that displays selectable candidates in a two-dimensional array for number of imaging pixels and image compression rates on the setting screen of said display device, wherein the selectable candidates present combinations of directly selectable numbers of pixels and compression rates;

a cursor operating device that inputs an instruction for moving a cursor, which points a selected position on the setting screen of said display device;

a designation instruction device that instructs a designation of a selected position, which is indicated by said cursor; and

an image quality setting device that changes a setting to the number of pixels and the image compression rate which are pointed by the cursor in accordance with a designated instruction from said designation instruction device; and

wherein the number of candidates for the image compression rates will depend upon the number of imaging pixels selected.

7. (Currently Amended) The digital camera as defined in claim 6, further comprising:

a calculation device that ~~calculates~~calculating at least one of the number of photographable images and a remaining time for recording a moving image from capacity of said storage medium with respect to each combination of the number of pixels and the image compression rate,

wherein the at least one of the number of photographable images and the remaining time calculated by the calculation device with respect to each combination is displayed on said setting screen.

8. (Original) The digital camera as defined in claim 7, wherein:

a table is prepared in which one of the selectable candidates for said number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate is horizontally lined up as a row, and the other is vertically lined up as a column on said setting screen; and

at least one of the number of photographable images and the remaining time for recording a moving image for the combination is displayed in each cell of the table.

9. (Original) The digital camera as defined in claim 6, further comprising:

a storage device that stores information on a combination of the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate which have been set in a previous setting,

wherein when one of the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate is changed, said display control device automatically moves the cursor to a position of the other of the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate in the previous setting according to the information stored in the storage device.

10. (Original) The digital camera as defined in claim 6, wherein when one of the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate is changed, said display control device moves the cursor to a position of the other of the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rate in a predetermined default.

11. (Previously Presented) The image quality selecting method of claim 1, wherein the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rates are changed independently.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) An image acquisition apparatus, comprising:

a memory for storing an image; and

at least one processor operably coupled to the memory, wherein at least one processor executes instructions for

displaying selectable options for image compression rates and image pixel quantities, wherein the image compression rates and image pixel quantities are each directly selectable using the selectable options,

arranging the options in a two-dimensional format according to predetermined combinations, and

selecting independently at least one of an image compression rate and an image pixel quantity from the displayed options using a cursor for use in processing the image,

wherein the number of options for the image pixel quantities will depend upon the image compression rate selected.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Presented) The image acquisition apparatus of claim 14, wherein the number of options for the image compression rates will depend upon the image pixel quantity selected.

17. (Previously Presented) The image acquisition apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the two-dimensional format further comprises a table having the selectable options arranged as table headings.

18. (Currently Amended) The image acquisition apparatus according to ~~claim 12~~claim 17, wherein row headings of the table correspond to selectable image compression rates and column headings of the table correspond to image pixel quantities.

19. (Currently Amended) The image acquisition apparatus according to ~~claim 12~~claim 17, wherein row headings of the table correspond to selectable image pixel quantities and column headings of the table correspond to selectable image compression rates.

20. (Currently Amended) The image acquisition apparatus according to ~~claim 12~~claim 17, wherein entries within the table correspond to at least one of a capacity for remaining photographs and remaining time for recording a moving image.

21. (Previously Presented) The image quality selecting method as defined in claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional arrangement comprises a two-dimensional matrix having a plurality of selectable cells, each selectable cell corresponds to a combination of number of pixels and image compression rate, and is designated by a user to set the number of pixels and image compression rate.

22. (Previously Presented) The digital camera as defined in claim 6, wherein the selectable candidates are arranged in a two-dimensional matrix having a plurality of selectable cells, each selectable cell corresponds to a combination of number of pixels and image compression rate, and is designated by a user to set the number of pixels and image compression rate.

23. (Previously Presented) The image acquisition apparatus as defined in claim 14, wherein the two-dimensional arrangement comprises a two-dimensional matrix having a plurality of selectable cells, each selectable cell corresponds to a combination of number of pixels and image compression rate, and is designated by a user to set the number of pixels and image compression rate.

24. (Previously Presented) The image quality selecting method as defined in claim 21, wherein each column of the two-dimensional matrix corresponds to one of a predetermined number of pixels or predetermined compression rate, and each row of the two-dimensional matrix corresponds to the other of the predetermined compression rate or the predetermined number of pixels.

25. (Previously Presented) The digital camera as defined in claim 22, wherein each column of the two-dimensional matrix corresponds to one of a predetermined number of pixels or a predetermined compression rate, and each row of the two-dimensional matrix corresponds to the other of the predetermined compression rate or the predetermined number of pixels.

26. (Previously Presented) The image acquisition apparatus as defined in claim 23, wherein columns of the two-dimensional matrix corresponds to one of a predetermined number of pixels or a predetermined compression rate, and each row of the two-dimensional matrix corresponds to the other of the predetermined compression rate or the predetermined number of pixels.